What is claimed is:

1. A healthcare data management system for use with an instrument for determining the concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid, the instrument including a first port, the system including a cradle for receiving the instrument, the cradle including a second port for coupling to the first port to download data from the instrument to the cradle.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cradle further includes means for the entry of data by an operator.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the data entry means includes a touch screen for the manual entry of data.

4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the data entry means includes a key pad for the manual entry of data.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a base, the base including a third port and the cradle including a fourth port, coupling of the third and fourth ports permitting downloading to the base of data collected from the instrument by the cradle.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein coupling of the third and fourth ports includes providing complementary surfaces on the cradle and base, engagement of the complementary surfaces of the cradle and base coupling the third and fourth ports.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the cradle includes at least one rechargeable battery for powering circuitry in the cradle, the base including a power supply, coupling of the third and fourth ports permitting charging of the battery from the power supply.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the base includes a fifth port for coupling to a port on a computer to permit transmission of data from the base to the computer.

9. The apparatus of claim 5 and further including a computer for at least one of storing the data, analyzing the data, and generating reports based upon the data, the base including a fifth port for coupling to a sixth port on the computer.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a bar code reader and patient identification devices, the system being capable of reading bar code from the

patient identification devices to identify data which is entered into the system with a particular patient.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the bar code reader is incorporated into the cradle.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a bar code reader and operator identification devices, the system being capable of reading bar code from the operator identification devices to identify data which is entered into the system with a particular operator.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the bar code reader is incorporated into the cradle.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 further including an accessory box including a third port, the cradle including a fourth port, engagement of the cradle with the accessory box coupling the third and fourth ports.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein coupling of the third and fourth ports includes providing complementary surfaces on the accessory box and cradle, engagement of the complementary surfaces of the accessory box and cradle coupling the third and fourth ports.

16. The apparatus of claim 14 further including a base, the base including a fifth port, engagement of the accessory box with the base coupling the fifth port and the third port through the accessory box to permit downloading to the base of data collected from the instrument by the cradle.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein coupling of the third and fifth ports includes providing complementary surfaces on the accessory box and base, engagement of the complementary surfaces of the accessory box and base being designed to achieve coupling of the third and fifth ports.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the base includes a sixth port for coupling to a port on a computer to permit the downloading of data from the base to the computer.

19. The apparatus of claim 16 and further including a computer for at least one of storing the data, analyzing the data, and generating reports based upon the data, the base including a sixth port for coupling to a seventh port on the computer.

20. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the accessory box further includes a housing and a carrying handle pivotally coupled to the housing.

21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the carrying handle has two ends, one of the ends including a number of yieldable locking positions for the handle with respect to the housing.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 further including a non-yieldable locking position of the handle with respect to the housing.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein at least one of the handle and the cradle includes a feature for engagement with the other of the cradle and the handle when the cradle engages the accessory box and the handle is in the non-yieldable locking position.

24. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the accessory box includes a drawer accessible from two opposite sides of the accessory box, the drawer including a stop for reducing the likelihood of accidental disengagement of the drawer from the accessory box when the accessory box is withdrawn from either of said two opposite sides.

25. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the accessory box includes a drawer accessible from two opposite sides of the accessory box, the drawer including latches to reduce the likelihood of inadvertent opening of the drawer.

26. A healthcare data management system for use with an instrument for determining the concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid, the system including a cradle for receiving the instrument, and an accessory box for receiving the cradle, the accessory box including a housing and a carrying handle pivotally coupled to the housing, the carrying handle having two ends, one of the ends including a number of yieldable locking positions for the handle with respect to the housing.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 further including a non-yieldable locking position of the handle with respect to the housing.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the handle includes a feature for engagement with the cradle when the cradle engages the accessory box and the handle is in the non-yieldable locking position.

29. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the accessory box includes a drawer accessible from two opposite sides of the accessory box, the drawer including a stop for reducing the likelihood of accidental disengagement of the drawer from the accessory box when the accessory box is withdrawn from either of said two opposite sides.

30. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the accessory box includes a drawer accessible from two opposite sides of the accessory box, the drawer including latches to reduce the likelihood of inadvertent opening of the drawer.

31. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein one of the ends includes a button which is yieldably urged into engagement with one of a number of depressions which define the yieldable locking positions of the handle.

32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said one of the ends further includes an opening which defines a non-yieldable locking position of the handle.

33. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the bottoms of the depressions are formed to include ramps to permit force on the handle to move the handle among the yieldable locking positions defined by the depressions.

34. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the opening includes a sidewall which defines the non-yieldable locking position, the sidewall being configured to permit locking of the handle in the non-yieldable locking position.

35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the opening permits access to the button to permit movement of the handle from the non-yieldable locking position.

36. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein at least one of the handle and the cradle includes a feature for engagement with the other of the cradle and the handle when the cradle engages the accessory box and the handle is in the non-yieldable locking position.